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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/596,476

06/14/2006

Dong Hoi Kim

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06/25/2008

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EXAMINER

OWYANG, MICHELLE N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2168

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/25/2008

ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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pto-sl@huschblackwell.com

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/596,476	<b>Applicant(s)</b> KIM ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> MICHELLE OWYANG	<b>Art Unit</b> 2168	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 March 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Examiner acknowledged applicant's response filed on 3/17/2008, in which claims 1-20 have cancelled, and claims 21-38 have added.

Claims 21-38 are pending in this application.

### ***Specification***

2. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter, "computer readable medium" is recited in claims 35-38; however, the term is not clearly defined in specification. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o).

### ***Examiner's Note***

3. Since the specification fails to describe what the claimed term "a computer readable medium" recited in claims 35-38 includes, thus Examiner assumes that the claims limit to execute over signal wave. In addition, because the claimed invention is associated with a search service method unitizing computer components, hence Examiner assumes that the "search service method", recited in claims 30-38, is referred to a computer implemented method.

### ***Claim Objections***

4. The following claims are objected to for lack of antecedent basis:
  - a. "the keyword group", claim 21, line 5, claim 26, line 5, claim 30, line 5, claim 35, line 6;
  - b. "the searched keyword", claim 21, lines 19-20, claim 26, line 20, claim 30, line

17, claim 35, line 18;

- c. “the search requested”, claim 21, line 25, claim 26, line 26, claim 30, line s 22-23.

***Double Patenting***

5. In view of the applicant’s amendment and the terminal disclaimer filed on 3/17/2008, the rejections under Double Patenting, as set forth in the previous office action is hereby withdrawn.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 21-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

With respect to claim 21 (line 9), claim 26 (line 9), claim 30 (line 9), claim 35 (lines 10-11), “the representative keyword” not clearly understood rendering claim indefinite. It is unclear how the claimed “representative keyword” is related to “the representative keyword” recited in claim 21 (line 6), claim 26 (line 6), claim 30 (line 6), claim 35 (line 6), respectively, and whether they are the same or not. In addition, “the searched keyword” recited in claim 21 (lines 19-20), claim 26 (line 20), claim 30 (line 17), claim 35 (line 18) in not clearly understood rendering claim indefinite. It is unclear whether it is referred to the received keyword recited in claim 1 (line 10), claim 26 (line 12), claim 30 (line 10), claim 35 (line 11), or the representative keyword

Art Unit: 2168

recited in claim 1 (line 17), claim 26 (line 17), claim 30 (line 15), claim 35 (line 17), or other keywords recited claim 1 (line 17), claim 26 (line 17), claim 30 (line 15), claim 35 (line 17), respectively.

Any claim not specifically addressed above is being rejected as incorporating the deficiencies of a claim upon which it depends.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 21-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Monteverde (Pub US 2003/0088553 A1), in view of Yoo et al (Patent No. 7,146,416 B1), hereinafter Yoo.

Monteverde is cited by the Examiner in the previous office action.

With respect to claim 21, Monteverde discloses a search service system (*provide relevant search results method, and the method is implemented by a system, [0012]*) comprising:

at least one memory having program instructions and databases (*at least one database, [0019], lines 1-2*), the databases including:

a category classification database including at least one classification record (*category database includes predetermined categories, [0019], lines 2-3*), the classification record including a representative category associated with a predetermined keyword group (*predetermined categories are associated with search terms, [0019], lines 6-9*), the keyword group including a representative keyword and other keywords associated the representative keyword (*search terms include definitional relevancy and/or linguistic usages, which corresponds to keyword association, [0032], lines 1-3*); and

a keyword database including a predetermined keyword group and (*search term database includes associated terms, and the search term database corresponds to the keyword database, [0032], lines 1-3*);

means for receiving a keyword from a user through a communication network (*receive initial search term from the user, [0033], lines 5-7*);

means for searching the category classification database for a representative category associated with a first keyword group (*find the popular category associated with the term, and the popular category corresponds to the representative category, [0033], lines 6-9*), the first

Art Unit: 2168

keyword group including the received keyword (*the terms include the initial term, [0032], lines 9-13*),

the means for searching the category classification database determining at least one keyword group associated with the searched representative category (*search category for matching terms, [0020], [0033], lines 9-13*);

means for searching the keyword database for the at least one keyword group associated with the searched representative category and (*search term database for associated terms, [0019], lines 6-9, [0033], lines 9-13*), the at least one keyword group including the first keyword group (*[0033], lines 9-11*);

means for providing the user with information showing popularity of the searched keyword based, at least in part (*provide the most popular information to the user, [0030], lines 25-29*).

Monteverde does not explicitly disclose

data indicative of a number of searches made using a representative keyword or other keywords associated with the representative keyword;

and data indicative of a number of searches made using a representative keyword or other keywords associated with each keyword group of the at least one keyword group;

upon the data indicative of the number of searches made using the representative keyword or other keywords associated with the first keyword group; and

means for updating the data indicative of the number of searches made using the representative keyword or other keywords associated with the first keyword group in response to the search requested by the user.

However, Yoo discloses data indicative of a number of searches made using a representative keyword or other keywords associated with the representative keyword (*term count is logged, and the count corresponds the data indicative of number of search using the term, Col. 6, lines 23-24, Col. 7, lines 65-67*);

data indicative of a number of searches made using a representative keyword or other keywords associated with each keyword group of the at least one keyword group (*count data for the term is logged, and the count corresponds the data indicative of number of search using the term, Col. 8, lines 10-13*);

upon the data indicative of the number of searches made using the representative keyword or other keywords associated with the first keyword group (*determine popularity based on the statistical measurement of the terms, and statistical measurement corresponds to the data indicative number of searches made, Col. 5, lines 1-5, Col. 13, lines 40-42*); and

means for updating the data indicative of the number of searches made using the representative keyword or other keywords associated with the first keyword group in response to the search requested by the user (*accumulating term counts, accumulating corresponds to updating, and count corresponds to the data indicative number of searches made, Col. 8, lines 10-11*).

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the term count techniques of Yoo in the system implemented by the search service method of Monteverde in order to provide more sophisticated and informative regarding popular trends (*Yoo, Col. 4, lines 20-24*).



With respect to claim 26, Monteverde discloses a search service system (*provide relevant search results method, and the method is implemented by a system, [0012]*) comprising:

at least one memory having program instructions and databases (*at least one database, [0019], lines 1-2*), the databases including:

a category classification database including at least one classification record (*category database includes predetermined categories, [0019], lines 2-3*), the classification record including a representative category associated with a predetermined keyword group (*predetermined categories are associated with search terms, [0019], lines 6-9*), the keyword group including a representative keyword and other keywords associated the representative keyword (*search terms include definitional relevancy and/or linguistic usages, which corresponds to keyword association, [0032], lines 1-3*); and

a keyword database including a predetermined keyword group and (*search term database includes associated terms, and the search term database corresponds to the keyword database, [0032], lines 1-3*); and

at least one processor configured to execute the program instructions to perform the operations (*processor configure to execute program instruction is included in the search engine provider, [0019], line 5*) of:

receiving a keyword from a user through a communication network (*receive initial search term from the user, [0033], lines 5-7*);

searching the category classification database for a representative category associated with a first keyword group including the received keyword (*find the popular category associated*

Art Unit: 2168

*with the term, and the popular category corresponds to the representative category associated with retrieved keyword, [0032], lines 9-13, [0033], lines 6-9);*

searching the keyword database for at least one keyword group associated with the searched representative category and *(search term database for associated terms, [0019], lines 6-9, [0033], lines 9-13)*, the at least one keyword group including the first keyword group *([0033], lines 9-11);*

providing the user with information showing popularity of the searched keyword based, at least in part *(provide the most popular information to the user, [0030], lines 25-29).*

Monteverde does not explicitly disclose

data indicative of a number of searches made using a representative keyword or other keywords associated with the representative keyword;

data indicative of a number of searches made using a representative keyword or other keywords associated with each keyword group of the at least one keyword group,

upon the data indicative of a number of searches made using a representative keyword or other keywords associated with each keyword group of the at least one keyword group; and

updating the data indicative of the number of searches made using the representative keyword or other keywords associated with the first keyword group in response to the search requested by the user.

However, Yoo discloses

data indicative of a number of searches made using a representative keyword or other keywords associated with the representative keyword *(term count is logged, and the count*

Art Unit: 2168

*corresponds the data indicative of number of search using the term, Col. 6, lines 23-24, Col. 7, lines 65-67);*

data indicative of a number of searches made using a representative keyword or other keywords associated with each keyword group of the at least one keyword group *(count data for the term is logged, and the count corresponds the data indicative of number of search using the term, Col. 8, lines 10-13);*

upon the data indicative of a number of searches made using a representative keyword or other keywords associated with each keyword group of the at least one keyword group *(determine popularity based on the statistical measurement of the terms, and statistical measurement corresponds to the data indicative number of searches made, Col. 5, lines 1-5, Col. 13, lines 40-42); and*

updating the data indicative of the number of searches made using the representative keyword or other keywords associated with the first keyword group in response to the search requested by the user *(accumulating term counts, accumulating corresponds to updating, and count corresponds to the data indicative number of searches made, Col. 8, lines 10-11).*

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the term count techniques of Yoo in the system implemented by the search service method of Monteverde in order to provide more sophisticated and informative regarding popular trends *(Yoo, Col. 4, lines 20-24).*

With respect to claim 30, Monteverde discloses a search service method *(provide relevant search results method, [0012])* comprising the steps of:

Art Unit: 2168

maintaining at least one classification record in a category classification database (*category database includes predetermined categories, [0019], lines 2-3*), wherein the classification record comprises a representative category associated with a predetermined keyword group and a general category associated with the representative category (*predetermined categories are associated with search terms, [0019], lines 6-9*), the keyword group comprises a representative keyword and other keywords associated the representative keyword (*search terms include definitional relevancy and/or linguistic usages, which corresponds to keyword association,[0032], lines 1-3*);

maintaining at least one predetermined keyword group in a keyword database (*search term database includes associated terms, and the search term database corresponds to the keyword database, [0032], lines 1-3*);

receiving a keyword from a user through a communication network (*receive initial search term from the user, [0033], lines 5-7*);

searching the category classification database for a representative category associated with a first keyword group (*find the popular category associated with the term, and the popular category corresponds to the representative category, [0033],lines 6-9*), the first keyword group including the received keyword (*the terms include the initial term, [0032], lines 9-13*);

searching the keyword database for at least one keyword group associated with the searched representative category and (*search term database for associated terms, [0019], lines 6-9, [0033], lines 9-13*), the at least one keyword group including the first keyword group (*[0033], lines 9-11*);

providing the user with information showing popularity of the searched keyword based, at least in part (*provide the most popular information to the user, [0030], lines 25-29*).

Monteverde does not explicitly disclose

data indicative of a number of searches made using a representative keyword or other keywords associated with the representative keyword,

data indicative of a number of searches made using a representative keyword or other keywords associated with each keyword group of the at least one keyword group,

upon the data indicative of the number of searches made using the representative keyword or other keywords associated with the first keyword group; and

updating the data indicative of the number of searches made using the representative keyword or other keywords associated with the first keyword group in response to the search requested by the user.

However, Yoo discloses

data indicative of a number of searches made using a representative keyword or other keywords associated with the representative keyword (*term count is logged, and the count corresponds the data indicative of number of search using the term, Col. 6, lines 23-24, Col. 7, lines 65-67*);

data indicative of a number of searches made using a representative keyword or other keywords associated with each keyword group of the at least one keyword group (*count data for the term is logged, and the count corresponds the data indicative of number of search using the term, Col. 8, lines 10-13*);

upon the data indicative of the number of searches made using the representative keyword or other keywords associated with the first keyword group (*determine popularity based on the statistical measurement of the terms, and statistical measurement corresponds to the data indicative number of searches made, Col. 5, lines 1-5, Col. 13, lines 40-42*); and

updating the data indicative of the number of searches made using the representative keyword or other keywords associated with the first keyword group in response to the search requested by the user (*accumulating term counts, accumulating corresponds to updating, and count corresponds to the data indicative number of searches made, Col. 8, lines 10-11*).

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the term count techniques of Yoo in the search service method of Monteverde in order to provide more sophisticated and informative regarding popular trends (*Yoo, Col. 4, lines 20-24*).

With respect to claim 35, Monteverde discloses a computer readable record medium recording a program for implementing a search service method (*provide relevant search results method, [0012]*) comprising the steps of:

maintaining at least one classification record in a category classification database (*category database includes predetermined categories, [0019], lines 2-3*), wherein the classification record comprises a representative category associated with a predetermined keyword group and a general category associated with the representative category (*predetermined categories are associated with search terms, [0019], lines 6-9*), the keyword group comprises a representative keyword and other keywords associated the representative

Art Unit: 2168

keyword (*search terms include definitional relevancy and/or linguistic usages, which corresponds to keyword association, [0032], lines 1-3*);

maintaining at least one predetermined keyword group in a keyword database (*search term database includes associated terms, and the search term database corresponds to the keyword database, [0032], lines 1-3*);

receiving a keyword from a user through a communication network (*receive initial search term from the user, [0033], lines 5-7*);

searching the category classification database for a representative category associated with a first keyword group (*find the popular category associated with the term, and the popular category corresponds to the representative category, [0033], lines 6-9*), the first keyword group including the received keyword (*the terms include the initial term, [0032], lines 9-13*);

searching the keyword database for at least one keyword group associated with the searched representative category (*search term database for associated terms, [0019], lines 6-9, [0033], lines 9-13*), the at least one keyword group including the first keyword group (*[0033], lines 9-11*);

providing the user with information showing popularity of the searched keyword based, at least in part (*provide the most popular information to the user, [0030], lines 25-29*).

Monteverde does not explicitly disclose

data indicative of a number of searches made using a representative keyword or other keywords associated with the representative keyword,

data indicative of a number of searches made using a representative keyword or other keywords associated with each keyword group of the at least one keyword group,

upon the data indicative of the number of searches made using the representative keyword or other keywords associated with the first keyword group; and

updating the data indicative of the number of searches made using the representative keyword or other keywords associated with the first keyword group in response to the search requested by the user.

However, Yoo discloses

data indicative of a number of searches made using a representative keyword or other keywords associated with the representative keyword (*term count is logged, and the count corresponds the data indicative of number of search using the term, Col. 6, lines 23-24, Col. 7, lines 65-67*);

data indicative of a number of searches made using a representative keyword or other keywords associated with each keyword group of the at least one keyword group (*count data for the term is logged, and the count corresponds the data indicative of number of search using the term, Col. 8, lines 10-13*);

upon the data indicative of the number of searches made using the representative keyword or other keywords associated with the first keyword group (*determine popularity based on the statistical measurement of the terms, and statistical measurement corresponds to the data indicative number of searches made, Col. 5, lines 1-5, Col. 13, lines 40-42*); and

updating the data indicative of the number of searches made using the representative keyword or other keywords associated with the first keyword group in response to the search requested by the user (*accumulating term counts, accumulating corresponds to updating, and count corresponds to the data indicative number of searches made, Col. 8, lines 10-11*).



It would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the term count techniques of Yoo in the search service method of Monteverde in order to provide more sophisticated and informative regarding popular trends (*Yoo, Col. 4, lines 20-24*).

With respect to claims 22, 27, 31 and 36, Monteverde does not explicitly disclose wherein the information showing popularity of the searched keyword shows popularity ranks of the at least one keyword group associated with the searched representative category.

However, Yoo discloses wherein the information showing popularity of the searched keyword shows popularity ranks of the at least one keyword group associated with the searched representative category (*buzz report with scores information shows the popularity ranks of terms associated with the category, Col. 15, lines 7-19, Fig 9-13*).

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the term count ranking techniques of Yoo in the search service method of Monteverde in order to provide more sophisticated and informative regarding popular trends (*Yoo, Col. 4, lines 20-24*).

With respect to claims 23, 28, 32, and 37, Monteverde discloses wherein the information showing popularity of the searched keyword shows a portion of the at least one keyword group associated with the searched representative category based upon the popularity of the at least one keyword group associated with the searched representative

category (*shows the most popular internet sites information associated with the category and searched request, [0036], lines 15-37, Fig 6*).

With respect to claims 24, 29, and 33, Monteverde does not explicitly disclose wherein the information showing popularity of the searched keyword shows changes in the popularity of the searched keyword in association with the other keywords of the at least one keyword group associated with the searched representative category.

However, Yoo discloses wherein the information showing popularity of the searched keyword shows changes in the popularity of the searched keyword in association with the other keywords of the at least one keyword group associated with the searched representative category (*popularity information shows the changes in the popularity of searched terms, Fig 9-13*).

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the term count techniques of Yoo in the search service method of Monteverde in order to provide more sophisticated and informative regarding popular trends (*Yoo, Col. 4, lines 20-24*).

With respect to claims 25, 34, and 38, Monteverde discloses means for receiving a selection of a representative category associated with a predetermined keyword group from a manager (*received category selection from the service provider, and the provider corresponds the manager, [0036], lines 9-10*); and

means for updating the received representative category associated with the predetermined keyword group in the classification record (*update the category, [0036], lines 10-16*).

### ***Response to Arguments***

8. Applicant's arguments filed on 3/17/2008, with respect to **amended** claims have been fully considered, and are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant argued that the previously cited reference, Monteverde, fails to disclose the elements recited by the **newly added** claim 21, such as “a keyword database including a predetermined keyword group and data indicative of a number of searches made using a representative keyword or other keywords associated with the representative keyword” recited in page 6 of the Remark. However, Monteverde discloses a search term database that includes search terms associating with topical categories in [0032]. One ordinary skill in the art would interpret that Monteverde has disclosed the claimed limitation “a keyword database including a predetermined keyword group”. Even though Monteverde does not explicitly discloses data indicative of a number of searches made using a representative keyword or other keywords associated with the representative keyword”, however, Yoo discloses logging counts associated with the requested terms in Col. 6, lines 23-25, and Col. 7, lines 65-67. One ordinary skill in the art would interpret that Yoo has disclosed “data indicative of a number of searches made using a representative keyword or other keywords associated with the representative keyword”. Hence, it

would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention combine the teachings of Monteverde and Yoo to address the claimed limitations.

### ***Conclusion***

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHELLE OWYANG whose telephone number is (571)270-1254. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (Alternate Fridays Off): 8am-5pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, TIM VO can be reached on 571-272-3642. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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2168

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